

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-22 are pending in the present application. The Examiner rejected Claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-15 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keeth (U.S. Patent 5,946,257) in view of Itoh et al. (U.S. Patent 5,388,084). The Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keeth in view of Itoh et al., and Sher (U.S. Patent 6,496,027). The Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Keeth in view of Itoh et al., Hsu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,343,044).

Please amend Claims 10 and 20 as set forth above.

Initially, it is respectfully submitted that Hsu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,343, 044) is an improper reference since the subject matter of the reference and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of Claims 6 and 16 under §103(a) be withdrawn.

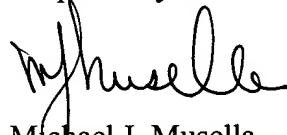
Regarding the rejections of independent Claims 10 and 20, the Examiner states that Keeth in view of Itoh et al. discloses all of the elements of the claims. Keeth discloses a selective power distribution circuit for an integrated circuit, and Itoh et al. disclose a non-volatile semiconductor memory device with high voltage generator. Claims 10 recites, “an enable register coupled to the voltage limiter, the oscillator and the charge pump, wherein the enable register is configured for storing one of an enable and disable signal, for isolating each of the plurality of macros from the external voltage supply, and for enabling or disabling at least the voltage limiter, the oscillator and the charge pump according to the stored signal”, and Claim 20 recites, “at least one enable register coupled to the voltage limiter, the oscillator and the charge pump, wherein the at least one enable register is configured for storing an enable/disable signal, for isolating each of the plurality of macros from the external voltage, and for enabling or disabling at least the voltage limiter, the oscillator and the charge pump according to the stored enable/disable signal.” The at

least one enable register recited in Claims 10 and 20 is connected to the voltage limiter, is connected to the oscillator, and is connected to the charge pump. Further, the at least one enable register of Claims 10 and 20 is used to disable the voltage limiter, is used disable the oscillator, and is used to disable the charge pump. And still further, the at least one enable register of Claims 10 and 20 is for isolating each of the plurality of macros from the external voltage. As neither Keeth nor Itoh et al. discloses or teaches the enable register of Claims 10 and 20 performing at least the operations set forth above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 10 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11, 13-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 2-6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-22, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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